

(b) if so, how long will it take to complete the process of data bank?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The planning for undertaking this work has commenced. However, it is not possible to prescribe a definite time-frame for its completion.

#### **WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

##### **Fall in the production of foodgrains**

2016. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth rate of production of foodgrains is going down in comparison to the level of population growth, since the process of reform was undertaken;

(b) reasons for decline despite the fact that there was by and large fairly good rainfall during the past years; and

(c) steps Government propose to take for reversing the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) According to Technical Group on Population Projection constituted by the Planning Commission, the annual compound growth rate of population in the decade of 90s (1991-2001) is estimated at 1.79% per annum whereas compound growth rate of foodgrains production (during 1990-91 to 1999-2000) is estimated at 1.97%.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The production of foodgrains is continuously monitored and various steps have been taken to achieve higher production levels. These include, *inter-alia*, implementation of Centrally Sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System area and National Pulses Development Project. Under these programmes/project, incentives

are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. In addition field demonstration on farmers holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology.

### **Declining prices of Coconut**

2017. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:  
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken any measures to arrest decline in prices of coconut and its products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) furnish the details of copra prices from 1995-96 to 2000-2001;
- (d) what are the steps taken by this Government to assist the coconut farmers to come out of economic losses arising from this fall in prices;
- (e) whether Government have imported coconuts from Colombo and Phillipines; and
- (f) whether Government would reconsider the policy of importing edible oils so as to protect the interest of coconut farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) To protect the interest of the copra growers, the National Agriculture Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) undertook price support operation of copra and as on 07.08.2000 purchased a total quantity of 77329 tonnes of milling copra in the copra growing States. Further purchases are continuing.

(c) The month-end wholesale prices of copra are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See below*).